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a barrier element positioned at said releasable seal and providing an electrically conductive path between the first electrode and the connector without exposing the first electrode to the external environment,

wherein said barrier element comprises a layer of material formed around a wire lead of said first electrode, the wire lead providing the electrically conductive path between said first electrode and the connector.

18. (Amended) An electrode package in which one or more adhesively-applied skin electrodes may be sealed, said electrode package comprising:

a first adhesively-applied skin electrode,

a compartment containing said first electrode,

a releasable seal adapted to seal said compartment and maintain said first electrode in a sealed mode in which said first electrode is not exposed to an external environment,

a connector of said first electrode, the connector comprising at least one terminal adapted to make and break an electrical connection, and the connector being exposed to the external environment, and

a barrier element positioned at said releasable seal and providing an electrically conductive path between said first electrode and said connector of said first electrode without exposing the first electrode to the external environment,

wherein said barrier element comprises a layer of material formed around a wire lead of said first electrode, the wire lead providing the electrically conductive path between said first electrode and the connector,

wherein the layer of material includes an arcuate upper portion and an arcuate lower portion, said barrier element being formed by heat sealing a first wall of the compartment to the arcuate upper portion, heat sealing a second wall of the compartment to the arcuate lower portion, and heat sealing the first and second walls to each other.

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